GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3944
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Disaster Management in Schools
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has set up an emergency response mechanism like National Disaster Response Force for schools across the country to deal with emergency situations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a set of guidelines have been issued to all concerned to deal with the state of emergency and safety precautions and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the schools have been recommended to have CCTV installed and in working order and if so, the percentage of schools with CCTV facilities in the country; and

(d) the time by when these CCTVs are likely to be installed in all the schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) and (b): The State Governments and affiliating boards for schools have the responsibility to ensure that schools provide a safe and child friendly environment. Ministry of Human Resource Development had written on 27th July, 2004 to all States and Union Territories (UTs) directing that school buildings should be free from inflammable and toxic materials and there should be provision for adequate emergency exits and adequate supply of water and sand for fire fighting purposes. The Ministry has requested the State Governments to issue appropriate guidelines on Standard Safety measures in schools on 28th July, 2014. Further, this Ministry has issued guidelines on 9th October, 2014 to all States and UTs for the effective implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, regarding safety and security of children in schools. These guidelines have elucidated the steps to be taken for choosing the physical location of the schools and ensure that the buildings are resistant to earthquakes, fire, safe from floods and other calamities. The Ministry has also circulated guidelines of National Disaster Management for school safety to all States and UTs on 27th February, 2017.
The Schedule to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for norms and standard for a school, which inter alia stipulate for all-weather school building. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme, School Management Committees (SMCs) can avail of training on all aspects of safety and security of children in schools. The guidelines on Food Safety and Hygiene for School Level Kitchen under the Mid Day Meal scheme stress on the safety aspects of procurement, storage and preparation of food items.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has formulated and circulated detailed guidelines to its affiliated schools for safety of students in schools and prevention of accidents relating to school children. Rule 8.5 of the Affiliation Bye laws prescribes that the School should scrupulously observe prescription from the Municipal Authority/District Collectorate/Transport Department regarding drinking water, fire safety and transport precautions in the school. A certificate from the Municipal/Fire/Transport Authority regarding sanitary conditions, water/fire/transport safety should be submitted along with the application. A fresh certificate regarding fulfilment of these requirements should be obtained and submitted to the Board every five years.

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) - 2005 brought out by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) emphasizes on connecting child's experiences with school knowledge and prepare children for independence in thought and action as well as responding to new situations in a flexible and creative manner. The NCF - 2005 emphasizes on providing space for the awareness and management of natural and man generated disaster in school curriculum. The new syllabi and textbooks developed by the NCERT in consonance with the NCF − 2005 provide adequate space to concerns like natural calamities/Disaster Management in integrated manner. Besides, the NCERT has also developed a series of small booklets to deal with different kinds of disasters which occur due to specific geographical location and environmental pollution. These booklets will help schools to provide disaster management training to not only students but also to teachers.

(c) and (d): There is no such proposal.